

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 28, 2006, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers

PRESENT

Tony McClendon
Akua Ofori-Boateng
Gil Palmer
John Roberts
John Stroh
Wes Roy
Jason Staley

ABSENT

Ian Kohen
Greg Lewis
Jay Myers
Marie Schroeder

***** Meeting Called to Order *****

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Secretary Roberts called roll. **Commissioner Palmer moved to accept the May Minutes as submitted, Commissioner Stroh seconded. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Roberts reported the beginning balance, as of May 24, 2006, as \$5,467.84. Expenditures of \$2,081.74 for the catering balance, linens, centerpieces, cultural and educational outreach. The annual dinner ticket deposits totaled \$2,830.00, leaving an account balance of \$4,911.74 as of June 23, 2006.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Chairperson Palmer voiced a personal welcome to the three newest Commissioners and announced that Brian Wilder was appointed as the new Cultural Liaison Officer for the Columbus Police Department.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley provided the case update for Commissioners. Case activity included a predetermination settlement in a major complaint, Deputy Director Smith's ongoing compliance efforts, and a second complaint to be closed within the month.

Community outreach provided by the Commission included the Director's brown bag presentation at Cummins, Inc., attended by over fifty employees. Commissioners Roberts and

Ofori-Boateng were thanked for their participation in Juneteenth events. Deputy Director Smith provided technical assistance on disability issues within the community.

Director Tinsley distributed the June newsletter that will also be available online at www.columbus.in.gov/chrc-index.html.

Director Tinsley updated Commissioners on her meeting with the new Cultural Liaison Officer, Brian Wilder. Officer Wilder is a first responder for situations where a Spanish speaker is required. He is interested in an immersion course and has discussed with Chief Martin.

OPEN FORUM/CURRENT EVENTS & COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Chairperson Palmer reported that the Vision 20/20 Downtown project has a lot of momentum, the input of ideas needs to continue. A recent presentation was made to downtown business representatives discussing residential housing and retail space.

Commissioner Roberts announced that Ivy Tech is providing an opportunity for recent high school graduates and G.E.D. recipients to take a free course at the community college.

OTHER BUSINESS – Report on National Conference by Cory Fowler:

Director Tinsley introduced Vincennes University student, Cory Fowler who shared his experience at the recent Skills USA National Competition. Mr. Fowler provided an overview of his experience, the requirements and his final status as the champion for his division.

ACTION ITEM – INTERFAITH FORUM LIAISON:

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners that Cindy Felsten is unable to continue as the Interfaith Forum Liaison due to the change in meeting times. The forum is now meeting during the lunch hour on the third Wednesday of each month. Commissioners clarified responsibilities and activities of the liaison.

Commissioner Stroh moved to appoint John Roberts as the liaison to the Interfaith Forum. Commissioner Roy seconded. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – BUDGET APPROVAL:

Director Tinsley submitted the proposed 2007 Budget under the General Fund for approval by Commissioners. Commissioners requested some clarification on the process and hearing date.

Commissioner Roberts moved to accept the budget as the prepared by the Director and the office of the Columbus Human Rights Commission. Commissioner McClendon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM – ANNUAL DINNER DEBRIEF:

Director Tinsley provided guest feedback on the food for the annual dinner. Overall, great reports were received on the dinner and keynote speaker. The Titan's Human Rights Projects were a good addition to the dinner.

Due to additional costs, such as linen rental and additional labor costs, Director Tinsley advised that the Commission might not break even on the cost of the annual dinner.

Director Tinsley requested that Commissioners begin their consideration and review of speakers, caterers and locations for the 2007 dinner. Discussion ensued.

LIAISON UPDATES – MAYOR’S CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE;

Commissioner Roy advised the only report is that the committee is meeting on July 18, 2006. The committee is heavily involved in realignment for new members and Ethnic Expo.

Commissioner McClendon moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded. Meeting adjourned.